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***** U R G E N T T

MIDEAST--PORTUGAL

DAMASCUS, NOV. 7, REUTER--THE ARAB COUNTRIES HAVE
DECIDED TO INTRODUCE A FULL ECONOMIC BOYCOTT AGAINST
PORTUGAL, ARAB DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAID HERE TODAY.

BADEL-GHANI AL-RAFEI, THE ASSISTANT SYRIAN FOREIGN
MINISTER, HAD A LONG MEETING HERE TUESDAY NIGHT WITH HEADS OF
ARAB DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN DAMASCUS.

OFFICIAL SOURCES SAID AFTER THE MEETING THAT DISCUSSIONS
COVERED ECONOMIC MEASURES AGAINST PORTUGAL "BECAUSE OF ITS
HOSTILE ATTITUDE" AND BECAUSE IT HAD MADE ITS TERRITORY
"A TRANSIT CENTER FOR ISRAEL DURING THE OCTOBER WAR."

DISCUSSIONS ALSO COVERED "THE STAND OF OTHER FOREIGN
COUNTRIES TOWARDS THE ARAB LIBERATION BATTLE," THE SOURCES
ADDED.

REUTER WRM/JK0348

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